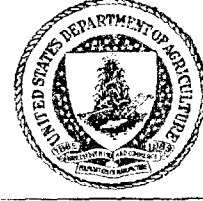


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URGES CONSERVATION; EXPLAINS BUREAU'S WORK FOR WILD LIFE -----

If enjoyment of our lakes and streams, our forests and parks, and the living creatures that inhabit them is to continue, it will be because of the unselfish devotion and the intelligent and united action of all nature lovers and conservationists, W. C. Henderson, associate chief of the Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, told the Minnesota Council of the Izaak Walton League of America meeting at Crookston, June 2. Never, he said, was the need for coordinated action greater than at present.

In all movements for wild-animal and bird conservation, said Mr. Henderson, the Biological Survey will continue to be actively interested.

The bureau's scientific investigations of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians, he explained, have resulted in a great store of facts, providing a scientific basis for all its functions. Food habits research, he said, has made it possible to urge protection because of both the economic importance of wild life and its esthetic interest. Forest-fauna investigations have furnished information for improving wild-life conditions and recreational opportunities and for regaining ground lost through thoughtless exploitation of natural resources. Disease studies have thrown light on the cyclic diminution and abundance of some species, and as a result, Mr. Henderson predicted, more practical policies of game management will be possible.

Explains Control Work

Speaking of "unwarranted attacks and scathing denunciations" directed against the bureau because of its cooperative predator and rodent control work, Mr. Henderson declared: "It is extremely unfortunate just at this time that the standing of the bureau and its influence for conservation should be thus weakened in any degree."

Some criticism of the bureau's control work, Mr. Henderson said, has been constructive and has enabled the bureau to improve its methods. "Some people, however," he continued, "have been misled by exaggerated statements, half truths, and misrepresentations, as well as by their own deductions from false premises. The motives of the bureau's personnel have been impugned, and they have been pictured as ruthless killers, with a lust to destroy every living creature."

In carrying out its control work, a duty placed on the Biological Survey by Congress, the bureau, the associate chief emphasized, has never lost sight of the fact that its main purpose is the conservation of all forms of wild life, and it has not worked for the reduction of numbers except locally where the animals have caused serious economic losses.

Conservation through Restrictions

Conservation work of the bureau, concerned with the administration of Federal laws enacted for the protection of wild-animal life, Mr. Henderson explained, has been accomplished to a great extent through restrictions on hunting and through the establishment of refuges. He outlined the restrictive regulations administered by the bureau.

"To those who criticize restrictions," he stated, "it must be said that, in case of need, the most direct method of conserving game is to reduce the kill. Restrictions give the quickest results, and often may be indispensable to prevent

the extermination of species."

Such need, he showed, made necessary the shortened season on waterfowl hunting in 1931. "Action giving the birds some relief," he said, "was imperative; whether the step taken was sufficient, or whether even more drastic measures may be necessary, only time and experience can tell."

Refuges

Mr. Henderson described the Federal Government's refuge program, based on studies of food and cover available. The program includes units throughout the nation. Investigations thus far, he reported, have covered in all essential details more than 120 refuge sites, distributed among the 48 States, and embracing considerably more than 3,500,000 acres. Lack of Federal funds, he explained, have interfered with the consummation of this program. This lack, however, he declared, will not prevent the establishment of migratory game bird refuges, if an emergency plan recently proposed by the Biological Survey succeeds. In conclusion he discussed this plan, according to which State game and conservation commissions, wildlife organizations, and others interested will provide many hundreds of small marsh and water areas suitable as resting, feeding, and breeding grounds for the birds.